

## Message Text

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51

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 NSC-10 CU-04 USIA-12 AID-20

DODE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SIL-01 OPIC-12 RSR-01 PC-15 /130 W

----- 027985

R 251206 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2645

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 6500

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: YOUTH PARA

REF: STATE 070302

FOLLOWING INFORMATION PROVIDED AS INPUT TO YOUTH PARA STUDY AS REQUESTED REFTEL. ANSWERS ARE KEYED TO PARAGRAPH NUMBERS IN REFTEL. ( NOTE: IN FOLLOWING RESPONSES CAVEAT APPLIES THAT PREDICTING FUTURE LEADERS AND DESIGNING EFFORTS TO REACH THEM IS IMPRECISE SCIENCE AT BEST. ALL ANSWERS ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION AS CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, PROGRAMS ARE ALTERED, AND NEW FACTORS COME INTO PLAY.

### I. YOUTH CATEGORIES:

A. CATEGORIES FROM WHICH LEADERS LIKELY TO EMERGE AND SUGGESTED AMOUNT OF MISSION' S EFFORT AS PERCENTAGE WEIGHTS:

3 PCT. YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS/ PARLIAMENTARIANS

25 PCT. YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS

39 PCT. YOUNG BUREAUCRATS, BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS:  
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10 PCT. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS/ PRIME MINISTER' S OFFICE

10 PCT. POLICE

10 PCT. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

9 PCT. OFFICIALS OF VARIOUS ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS

7 PCT. MEDIA

10 PCT. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

4 PCT. EDUCATION

2 PCT. ARTS AND LETTERS

2 PCT. LABOR

2 PCT. YOUTH LEADERS

5 PCT. UNIVERSITIES

1 PCT. SECONDARY SCHOOLS

100 PCT. TOTAL

B. RATIONALE FOR PERCENTAGES LISTED ABOVE: THAILAND HAS  
BEEN RULED BY THE MILITARY  
FOR MOST OF THE PAST 30 YEARS. THERE IS NO OTHER GROUP  
IN THE COUNTRY WITH ANYTHING APPROACHING THE POWER BASE  
OF THE THAI MILITARY. THEREFORE THE THAI MILITARY ARE  
DOMINANT FORCE AND AS SUCH GET A LARGEST PART OF  
MISSIONS EFFORTS. THE SINGLE  
LARGEST PERCENTAGE GROUPING IS AN AMALGAM OF  
YOUNG BUREAUCRATS IN THE POLICE, THE MFA, THE MINISTRY OF  
INTERIOR, AND THE ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES AND  
DEPARTMENTS. IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT THESE ELEMENTS ARE  
NOT COHESIVE. THUS ALTHOUGH THEIR COMBINED PERCENTAGE  
OF SUGGESTED EFFORT (39 PCT.) EXCEEDS THAT ALLOTTED TO THE  
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MILITARY, THE DISPARATE GROUPS ARE IN NO POSITION TO  
CHALLENGE THE MILITARY HEGEMONY. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  
ARE THE NEXT MOST POTENT FORCE, BUT HERE IT SHOULD BE  
NOTED THAT BOTH THE MILITARY AND THE CIVIL SERVICE ARE  
VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN BUSINESS, THERE BEING NO CONCEPT  
HERE ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN THE AMERICAN SENSE OF THE  
TERM. PREDOMINANCE OF OVERSEAS CHINESE IN BUSINESS SECTOR

HAS RETARTED POLITICAL ROLE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS LEADERS AS CHINESE ARE EXTREMELY WARY OF JEOPARDIZING THEIR POSITION HERE BY INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL SPHERE WHICH COULD BE MIS-CONSTRUED BY RTG. WITH PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS EMASCULATED AT PRESENT, NO SIGNIFICANT LABOR MOVEMENT, AND NO POLITICAL PARTIES AS WE UNDERSTAND THE TERMS, THESE SECTORS OF THE SOCIETY GET SMALL PERCENTAGES. EDUCATORS, YOUTH LEADERS, THE MEDIA, UNIVERSITIES, AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, WHILE WORTHY TARGETS OF MISSION EFFORTS, AGAIN DO NOT RATE LARGE PERCENTAGES. THE MISSION WOULD STRONGLY POINT OUT THAT REALISTIC ACCEPTANCE OF THE DIVISION OF POWER IN THAILAND IN NO WAY IMPLIES MISSION ENDORSEMENT OF THAT DIVISION. ALL ELEMENTS ARE KEEN TO ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IN THEIR CONTACTS, BUT WE CANNOT REMAKE THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE OPERATE.

C. WE DOUBT THAT ANY YOUTH GROUPS OR INSTITUTIONS WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON U. S. INTERESTS IN THE NEXT TWO TO FOUR YEARS. WHILE THERE WILL PROBABLY BE INCREASING RESTIVENESS AMONG THE STUDENT / INTELLECTUAL SEGMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PERMIT THESE TO BECOME DETERMINING FACTORS, UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO USE STUDENT FEELING TO AID IN REACHING ITS OWN GOAL. ( AN EXAMPLE IS THE RECENT STUDENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST JAPANESE PRODUCTS WHICH MATCHED THE RTG' S OWN DISSATISFACTION WITH THE UNFAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE WITH JAPAN).

## II. OBJECTIVES:

A. THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR PROGRAMS WITH YOUTH IN THAILAND COINCIDE WELL WITH OVERALL MISSION OBJECTIVES. PERCENTAGE WEIGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

10 PCT. ASSURE ACCESS TO FUTURE LEADERSHIP  
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5 PCT. DEVELOP INFLUENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH POTENTIAL  
FUTURE LEADERS

10 PCT. CREATE AND MAINTAIN FAVORABLE ATTITUDES TOWARD U. S.

10 PCT. PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF BROAD U. S. GOALS AND POLICIES

10 PCT. INFLUENCE ATTITUDES ON SPECIFIC U. S. INTERESTS

10 PCT. FOSTER CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO BILATERAL TRADE AND  
U. S. INVESTMENTS

5 PCT. HELP STRENGTHEN MODERATE, DEMOCRATIC GROUPS AND

INDIVIDUALS

- 10 PCT. FOSTER A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
- 5 PCT. ENCOURAGE COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IN DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM
- 10 PCT. ENCOURAGE PRAGMATIC, NON- IDOELOGICAL APPROACHES TO NATIONAL PROBLEMS
- 5 PCT. COUNTER ACTIVITIES OF FORCES HOSTILE TO U. S. INTERESTS
- 5 PCT. THROUGH YOUTH CONTACTS UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW INCIPIENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL TRENDS IN THE SOCIETY
5. PCT. OTHER: ENCOURAGE SENSE OF REGIONALISM AND COOPERATION AMONG THAILAND AND THE OTHER NATIONS OF S. E. ASIA
- 100 PCT.

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 NSC-10 CU-04 USIA-12 AID-20

DODE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SIL-01 OPIC-12 RSR-01 PC-15 /130 W  
----- 028245

R 251206 Z APR 73  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2646

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 6500

B. RATIONALE: ACCESS TO FUTURE LEADERSHIP IS A PRUDENT GOAL FOR ANY MISSION. DEVELOPING INFLUENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS IS THE AIM OF THAT ACCESS. CREATING AND DEVELOPING ATTITUDES AND UNDERSTANDING FAVORABLE TO THE U. S. WILL IN THE LONG RUN BE MORE DEPENDENT ON OUR ACTIONS VIS A VIS THE RTG THAN ON OUR YOUTH PROGRAM. FOSTERING A CLIMATE FOR U. S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT WILL ALSO DEPEND TO A CERTAIN EXTENT ON OUR ACTIONS. THOSE OBJECTIVES LIETED ABOVE RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT, PRAGMATISM, AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES ARE

THE BEST LONG TERM INSURANCE AGAINST THE SPREAD OF THE INSURGENCY. COUNTERING FORCES HOSTILE TO THE U. S. CAN BEST BE ACHIEVED BY IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT IN A PARTICIPATORY FRAMEWORK. OUR ADDED OBJECTIVE OF FOSTERING REGIONALISM RISES FROM A CONVICTION THAT THE COUNTRIES OF S. E. ASIA CAN DRAW SUPPORT FROM ONE ANOTHER OVER THE LONG RUN. A STRONG REGIONAL SPIRIT CAN ALSO HELP PREVENT LOCAL RIVALRIES WITH NEIGHBORS WHICH CAN ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE LONG TERM INSTABILITY OF THE REGION.

### III. RESOURCES:

A. PERCENTAGE WEIGHTS OF PROGRAMS RELATING TO YOUTH OBJECTIVES MEASURED IN TERMS OF ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES:

10 PCT. C. U. INTERNATIONAL VISITOR TRAVEL GRANTS

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2 PCT. TEENAGE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS ( AFS, ETC.)

20 PCT. AID PARTICIPANT TRAINING PROGRAMS

23 PCT. MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS

10 PCT. DOD OR MAP ORIENTATIONS TOURS IN U. S.

35 PCT. USIA CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMMING

100 PCT.

B. PEACE CORPS : BECAUSE OF ITS HEAVY INVOLVEMENT WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND IT WORK WITH T. E. F. L. AND CURRICULUM REVISION AT THE SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION LEVELS, PEACE CORPS HAD DAILY CONTACT ACROSS A WIDE SPECTRUM OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND MINISTRY OFFICIALS. AS SUCH ITS LONG TERM IMPACT WILL BE FAVORABLE AND ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. IT IS NOT IN THE PEACE CORP CHARTER TO IDENTIFY FUTURE LEADERS FOR OTHER MISSION ELEMENTS NOR SHOULD IT BE.

### IV . RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH:

A. WITHIN THE THAI CONTEXT, YOUTH SHOULD BE AN OBJECT OF MEDIUM LEVEL EFFORT BY THE MISSION.

B. RATIONALE: THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THAI YOUTH ARE POLITICALLY PASSIVE. THEY HAVE BEEN MOLDED WITHIN THE TRADITIONAL THAI CULTURAL IDEAL THAT YOUTH MUST RESPECT ITS ELDERS AND WAIT ITS TURN. EDUCATED IN A SYSTEM WHICH STRESSES ROTE LEARNING AND DOES NOT ENCOURAGE INTEL-

LECTUAL INDEPENDENCE OR QUESTIONING, YOUTH IN THAILAND ARE NOT YET THE FORCE THAT EXISTS IN MANY OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WHILE THIS IS SLOWLY CHANGING AS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS BECOME MORE ISSUE ORIENTED AND AWARE OF STUDENT ACTIVISM IN THE WEST, THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ALLOW YOUTH OR STUDENT MOVEMENTS TO BECOME AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL FORCE. THEREFORE MISSION EFFORTS SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED NOT ON YOUTH IN THE BROAD SENSE OF THE WORD BUT RATHER AT THOSE YOUNG FIGURES OPERATING WITHIN TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF THAI SOCIETY ( THE MILITARY, THE POLICE, THE CIVIL SERVICE, BUSINESS, AND THE UNIVERSITY FACILITIES). AN ONGOING MISSION PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY AND RATIONALIZE CONTACTS WITH KEY YOUNG MODERNIZERS IS THE SPEARHEAD OF OUR EFFORT. THIS IS AUGMENTED BY THE MORE GENERAL PROGRAMS DESCRIBED IN SECTION III ABOVE.

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TIONS OF THAI SOCIETY ( THE MILITARY, THE POLICE, THE CIVIL SERVICE, BUSINESS, AND THE UNIVERSITY FACILITIES). AN ONGOING MISSION PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY AND RATIONALIZE CONTACTS WITH KEY YOUNG MODERNIZERS IS THE SPEARHEAD OF OUR EFFORT. THIS IS AUGMENTED BY THE MORE GENERAL PROGRAMS DESCRIBED IN SECTION III ABOVE.

C. ALLOCATION OF PERSONNEL TIME:

1. ( A) ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE AND AMOUNT OF PERSONNEL TIME USED FOR YOUTH WORK ( INCLUDING OFFICERS OF ALL AGENCIES WHO HAVE CONTACT, REPORTING OR PROGRAMING RESPONSIBILITIES):

AGENCY	PERCENTAGE	MAN- MONTHS
EMBASSY	10	42
MACTHAI	5	70
USIS	35	106
AID	5	66
DAO	20	14

TOTAL 298

B. ALLOCATION OF PERSONNEL EFFORT:

CONTRACT WORK 15 PCT.  
REPORTING 10 PCT.  
PROGRAM WORK 75 PCT.

C. DIVISION AMONG USG AGENCIES BY PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL

MAN- MONTHS:

STATE:	14
AID	22
USIA	36
MACTHAI	23
DAO	5
TOTAL	100 PCT.

2. PROGRAM RESOURCES: ALLOCATION OF PROGRAM BUDGETS FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS:

20 PCT. OF CU BUDGET  
40 PCT. OF USIA BUDGET

15 OCT. OF AID BUDGET

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2 PCT. OF MAP BUDGET.

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Errors:** n/a  
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**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 7  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 STATE 070302  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980128  
**Subject:** YOUTH PARA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TH  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
SS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005